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metroNEWS

JEFF HARPER/METRO

JIAN GHOMESHI CASE

Acquittal doesn't alter reality, says advocate

**Brenlee
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For Metro | Halifax

Nearly a week after Jian Ghomeshi was found not guilty of sexual assault and choking, a Halifax victim's advocate says there is no quick fix for the justice system.

"I think we all kind of anticipated it, but it was still disappointing," Avalon Sexual Assault Centre executive director Jackie Stevens said Tuesday of the Ghomeshi verdict.

Changes within the justice system are complicated and won't happen overnight, Stevens told Metro, and movement likely won't begin by overhauling any laws.

"We have to re-examine our beliefs and how those beliefs impact how we respond to ... sexualized violence," Stevens said. "We need to put more emphasis on prevention."

Victims need to be supported and the first step is to believe them, she added.

"An acquittal doesn't mean it didn't happen."

For Q & A with Stevens, see page 4

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Neighbourhood wakes to forensics investigation

CRIME

Community reacts after man shot dead on sidewalk



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A man living on Spring Avenue in Dartmouth was up taking care of his sick son when he heard a "bang" around 5 a.m.

He heard nothing else and went to bed, but when he woke up a few hours later the man saw Mount Edward Road taped off past the intersection with Spring Avenue and police cars flashing their lights.

Halifax Regional Police say a young man was found dead with a gunshot wound on the sidewalk of Mount Edward Road near Spring Avenue around 5:20 a.m. Tuesday.

"It's kind of crazy but what do you do?" the man, who preferred not to give his name, said around 10:30 a.m.

Nearly a dozen Halifax police officers and forensic investigators in bright jackets were at the scene Tuesday morning, searching the lawns and sidewalk near the intersection with equipment and



Halifax police forensic identification officers search for evidence at the scene of a shooting early Tuesday morning in Dartmouth. JEFF HARPER/METRO

going in and out of a large blue tent.

Although the man said he's never heard of anything happening like this in the neighbourhood in the three years he's lived there, Angela Comish who also lives on Spring

"It's kind of crazy but what do you do?"

Unnamed neighbour

Avenue said there's been some crime nearby within a few blocks.

Comish said neither herself or her kids heard anything Tuesday morning but woke up to messages from friends around 7:30 a.m. asking what

+ SUSPECTS

Halifax Regional Police Const. Dianne Woodworth would not comment directly on whether police had any suspects or persons of interest.

Police are asking anyone with information related to the case to contact police at 902-490-5020.

was going on and if she was okay.

"It's pretty scary," Comish said.

When asked if she feels safe in the area, Comish shook her head and paused before saying "no, no."

Police are investigating the death as suspicious, but have yet to rule it a homicide.

"Until the medical examiner deems it such, we say it's a suspicious death," spokesperson Const. Dianne Woodworth said Tuesday morning.

In a following up interview late Tuesday, Woodworth said there was no new information to provide.

The victim's identity has yet to be confirmed.

Woodworth couldn't say exactly how many times the victim was shot, but said witnesses heard multiple gunshots.



Kristin Johnston FACEBOOK

HOMICIDE

Police yet to speak to person of interest

Halifax police say they are waiting to speak to a man they describe as a person of interest in the homicide death of a local yoga instructor.

Police found the body of 32-year-old Kristin Elizabeth Johnston in a home in Purcells Cove on Saturday.

Police spokeswoman Theresa Rath says a man who was arrested at the home on Saturday remains in hospital with "significant" injuries.

Rath says police need to speak to the man in order to "help progress our investigation," but says she doesn't know when that will happen.

She won't talk about the relationship between the man and Johnston, saying only that they were known to one another.

Police questioned another man who was at the home when officers arrived, but his involvement was ruled out.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT

Man accused of killing student committed to stand trial



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

The man accused of killing a fellow Dalhousie student last summer was committed to stand trial on Tuesday.

William Sandeson, 23, was charged with first-degree murder in the killing of Taylor Samson, 22, in August 2015, four days after he'd gone missing.

Samson's body was never found.

The preliminary inquiry to

decide if Sandeson would stand trial lasted three weeks in February and heard from more than a dozen witnesses. That evidence is protected by a publication ban.

Judge Anne Derrick decided Tuesday the evidence is enough for the case against Sandeson to proceed to trial.

"We were looking for a committal on first-degree murder, and we're satisfied that the judge delivered the decision we were seeking in this case," Crown attorney Susan MacKay said after the decision Tuesday.

Sandeson's lawyer, Eugene

Tan, said he anticipates the case will go to trial by judge and jury "no earlier than the fall," and will take five to six weeks.

Tan said he and his client would need "a little bit of time to digest" Tuesday's decision, but said he felt it was "grounded."

"It was (a) very detailed analysis, and I certainly know how the judge got there," he said.

Sandeson stared at the floor for much of the hour and a half spent in court Tuesday.

Tan said his client doesn't get "too excited about any possible outcomes."

"He prepares himself for the very worst possible outcome so that he's not let down or disappointed," he said.

Tan also said his client has been taking a keen interest in the law during his time in custody, and he expects him to be playing a "very active role" in his defence during the trial.

"He just wants some opportunity to control his own outcome," Tan said.

Sandeson will be in Nova Scotia Supreme Court next week to begin the process of setting trial dates.



William Sandeson arrives for his preliminary hearing at Halifax provincial court in February 2016.

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Good intentions wilted

SUPPORT

Daffodils spoiled for cancer society campaign



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Thousands of bunches of daffodils were spoiled en route to Nova Scotia as part of an annual Canadian Cancer Society campaign, creating a "struggle" to recover the expected revenue.

On Saturday, workers with the Nova Scotia division arrived at the Halifax airport to move 33,000 bunches of the yellow flowers for Daffodil Month from the warehouse into cold storage when they noticed some were open.

"It became very obvious that the flowers somewhere in transportation had been not kept cold and they'd opened and/or were open and spoiled," Barbara Stead-Coyle, national vice-president of annual development and former CEO of the N.S. division, said Tuesday.

Stead-Coyle said they are now trying to find out what might have gone wrong between the flowers leaving a grower in British Columbia and being transported

to Halifax in trucks and an airplane.

It's important the flowers be kept cold so the bud stays tight, Stead-Coyle said, since the daffodils open up when warmed to room temperature.

The loss of those bunches for the annual campaign could cost about \$300,000 for the division, Stead-Coyle said, about five to seven per cent of their annual revenue.

"It's a significant amount of revenue that we are going to struggle to recover," Stead-Coyle said.

The Daffodil Campaign uses two streams with

+ ELSEWHERE IN CANADA

Future daffodil issues?

Barb Stead-Coyle said so far only Nova Scotia is reporting spoiled flowers, but since not every

province receives daffodils the same weekend they likely won't know if there are more issues until the entire campaign is through.

pre-sale orders from businesses and organizations across N.S. as well as retail shops, Stead-Coyle said, so they began contacting people Tuesday to offer them a refund or the option to convert their daffo-

dil gift to a donation.

"People are very shocked and disappointed for us," Stead-Coyle said.

"Hopefully people will recognize that we need to recover this revenue and consider making a donation."

There is still a chance to buy daffodils and support the society through a national partnership with Loblaw's this spring. The flowers, potted only, will be for sale in Atlantic Superstores from April 7 to 20.

\$300K

The amount that the Nova Scotia division could lose due to the ruined flowers

CHARLOTTETOWN

Kelly officially named to new job

Former Halifax mayor Peter Kelly was formally appointed Charlottetown's top administrator on Tuesday.

Peter Kelly is the City of Charlottetown's new chief administrative officer, Charlottetown Mayor Clifford Lee confirmed.

As first reported by The Guardian on Monday, Kelly will take on the new job May 1, 2016.

Lee says Kelly was chosen based on his years of extensive experience, both as an administrator and politician.

"We reviewed 57 applications. We shortlisted and interviewed 15 highly qualified candidates," said Lee. "After additional interviews, the hiring committee narrowed it down to two people and council made the final decision together. We are confident that from this process, we have chosen the best candidate for the job."

Kelly began working at the municipal level when he was elected as a town councillor in Bedford in 1985 after overseeing employment programs for the province of Nova Scotia for four years. He was elected as the mayor and CEO of the Town of Bedford from 1991 to 1996.

After serving another term as a councillor, Kelly went on to be elected as the mayor of Halifax where he served until 2012.

Most recently, Kelly was the chief administrative officer for Westlock County in Alberta.

Charlottetown CAO Donna Waddell will work with Kelly on the transition to Charlottetown until she retires on April 30.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN/TC MEDIA



Former Halifax mayor Peter Kelly
METRO FILE



33K

Bunches of daffodils that were spoiled

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Local advocate talks of next steps after Ghomeshi verdict

INTERVIEW

There's no quick fix for survivors, says Jackie Stevens

Brenlee Brothers
For Metro | Halifax

Jackie Stevens, executive director of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax, sits down for a chat with Metro.

Metro: What did you feel after the verdict of the Jian Ghomeshi trial?

JS: I think we all kind of anticipated (his acquittal), but it was still disappointing ... I think a lot of people were watching this case, particularly because of the potential impacts that it would have on the legal process for victims and survivors of sexualized violence.

Metro: Do you agree with the verdict?

JS: An acquittal doesn't mean it didn't happen ... What I think I was more disappointed in was the way in which the judge chose to outline that verdict ... Lucy Decoutere was chastised for becoming a victims' advocate and that was seen as her creating a name for herself, or for furthering publicity for herself, not as part of her healing process or trying to find a voice in all of this.

Metro: What do you think about the level of public outcry and conversation



Jackie Stevens, executive director of the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre in Halifax, speaks with Metro on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

this has sparked?

JS: A lot of people who maybe haven't been talking about this issue before, are. That is important because more people are recognizing that it is a serious social and systemic issue ... There is also backlash and so, certainly, there are other voices coming out even stronger to try to silence people who might be speaking out ... Both show the level of complexity around this issue and the need for change.

Metro: What do you think of the reaction of women?

JS: This particular case focused on a certain group of women, but it has illustrated that if it was difficult for women, and particularly women who have their own celebrity or their own sense of security, and this is what's happened to them — what are the barriers, what are the challenges for people who are marginalized and who have limited access to certain services and supports?

Metro: Is this an important conversation to have no matter how heated or uncomfortable it may become?

JS: It's unfortunately taken a lot of serious harm to people and to the community to get people to this place of being willing to talk about it and to do something about it ... To have a provincial strategy, and to have, on a provincial level, sexualized violence being addressed and talked about, and have money and programs being implemented that weren't there 20 years ago ... We have to continue to have these conversations, regardless of how difficult they are.

Metro: What does this mean for victims who want to come forward?

JS: People need to have a clear understanding of the reporting and the legal process, and the criminal justice process, and the court process, and that they need supports to go through that ... Is it looking at specialized sexual-assault courts ... is it looking at more effective training for police, Crowns, judges, other law and legal professionals? ... Ontario is looking at providing free legal advice for sexual assault victims prior to a trial.

Out west they are looking at time off work for people who have experienced intimate partner violence and sexual assaults ... We don't focus on the long-term outcomes ...

That's something we need to start examining more effectively.

ECONOMY

Wine lab to open at Acadia

The federal and provincial governments are helping fund a research lab in the heartland of Nova Scotia's blossoming wine industry.

The new facility at Acadia University in Wolfville will receive \$487,960 over two years, with Ottawa contributing the lion's share.

The lab, expected to open this summer, will bring together experts including food scientists, dietitians, biochemists, plant physiologists and food and beverage producers.

There are about 20 wineries operating in the province's small-but-mighty industry, which the government says boasted sales of \$15.4 million last year and accounts for \$7.3 million in wages annually.

The funding is through a five-year cost-sharing agreement between Ottawa, the provinces and territories for agricultural projects. The lab will be located in Acadia's chemistry building and used for both academic research and industry collaboration.

Premier Stephen McNeil says the government wants to see the industry thrive.

"Nova Scotia's wine industry has potential for tremendous growth," he said Tuesday.

Keith Colwell, the province's agriculture minister, said the lab has been identified as a priority by the Nova Scotia Wine Development Board.

The board was created in 2014 to capitalize on the industry's potential for growth, identify opportunities and give advice on legislation, regulation and policy development. It's made up of representatives from the province's wineries, grape growers and other support services including the Nova Scotia Liquor Corp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Kids shriek at Shrek musical

NEPTUNE THEATRE

Production promises adults lots of laughs, too



Yvette d'Entremont
Metro | Halifax

When a rehearsal includes someone offstage shouting the words, "reset the skunk," you know the word "fun" fits.

Shrek The Musical officially opens at Neptune Theatre on Friday and director George Pothitos said "relentless fun" is how he'd describe the production. As a side note, the skunk outside Shrek's ogre hut might have visible smoke fuming from his back end, but don't worry. There's no smell.

"The first layer of the onion is the fun and then of course there are the characters themselves. There's something modern about them," Pothitos said Tuesday.

"It has a wonderful, very modern message about inclusion, about celebrating your differences, the differences of people, accepting them for who they are."

For those unfamiliar with the popular movie, Shrek is an ogre who sets out to rescue Princess Fiona from a castle guarded by a fire-breathing dragon.

"It is a movie, and as always



Heather McGuigan is Fiona, Troy Adams is Donkey and Jacob MacInnis is Shrek in Neptune Theatre's production of Shrek The Musical. JEFF HARPER / METRO

putting a movie onstage is difficult," Pothitos said.

The idea to bring Shrek The Musical to Neptune was hatched after Pothitos saw it in London.

"I went in not knowing

what to expect and I loved it. I thought, 'Yes, I think Halifax would love this,' " he recalled.

"It's one of those things where it's not pretentious and yet it's very artistic. It certainly has a lot of thought put into it."

Pothitos believes what makes Shrek the movie so popular carries over onto the stage. He described the production as offering a simple message: that everyone can fall in love.

"I think that attracts people to it because it's not only unconventional but the take on it is unconventional," he said.

"Like when (Shrek) goes to rescue Fiona and she's sleeping on her bed like Sleeping Beauty. 'Ah great,' he says. 'One of the snoozers.' That irreverent humour that Shrek has appeals to us all."

Although Shrek is often seen as a children's production,

Pothitos stressed the performance is family friendly but includes some adult humour that goes over kids' heads.

"I think the misconception sometimes is that it is a kid's play. It's not a kid's play, although it's child friendly," he said.

"There's a whole fart section because of course Shrek farts. He farts! So the kids just kill themselves laughing."

The show features an original score of all-new songs and a cast that includes Jacob MacInnis as Shrek, Heather McGuigan as Princess Fiona, Troy Adams as Donkey, Jonathan Winsby as Lord Farquaad and Jeigh Madjus as Pinocchio.

"I think we've captured the heart, because without heart it's hard to feel for somebody," he said. "You see their heart on their sleeve and you empathize."

"I think the misconception sometimes is that it is a kid's play. It's not a kid's play, although it's child friendly. Director George Pothitos

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POLL

Mayor still popular



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

Haligonians overwhelmingly support another run for office by Mayor Mike Savage, according to a poll from Corporate Research Associates.

The poll, conducted in February and released on Tuesday, shows 72 per cent people in Halifax believe Savage should run in this fall's election.

Only 17 per cent said he should not reoffer and 12 per cent had no opinion.

The poll also shows approval of the Savage-led municipal government rising to 70 per cent from 64 per cent three months ago.

Savage has repeatedly said "there's a very good likelihood



Mike Savage. JEFF HARPER/METRO

he'll run again, and told Metro in December he enjoys the job.

The poll comes on the same day former Halifax mayor Peter Kelly — who was rumoured to be eying a run for Savage's job — took a job as CAO of Charlottetown.

The poll surveyed 400 people in the municipality over the age of 18 on the telephone between Feb. 1 and Feb. 14 of this year.

IN BRIEF

Bear Head gets more land for liquefied natural gas

Bear Head LNG says it has reached a deal to buy additional land in Nova Scotia for its proposed liquefied natural gas facility.

It says with the extra land it can increase the capacity of the LNG plant from eight million tonnes to 12 million tonnes a year in 2024.

Bear Head will get an additional 29 hectares of land next to its site on the Strait of Canso.

The National Energy Board has approved the company's plans to export up to 12 million tonnes of liquefied natural gas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Melissa Ann Shepard, shown in this photo from last week, has a history of violent offences dating back to 1992. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New confusion over 'Black Widow'

COURT

Melissa Ann Shepard has shifted identity in the past

An elderly woman whose identity shifted before and after convictions for killing and poisoning men is once again at the centre of confusion over what her last name truly is.

Melissa Ann Shepard, who became known as the "Black Widow," departed a Nova Scotia prison this month after serving her full sentence for spiking her newlywed husband's coffee with tranquilizers.

On March 18, the Halifax police issued a public warning on its website about the 80-year-old's release, stating her identity is Melissa Ann Shephard, with a second "h," but it appears that spelling is not correct.

The release notes she has a history of offences dating

back to 1992 that include a conviction for manslaughter of a former husband who she ran over with a car, and in 2013 for administering a noxious substance to Fred Weeks.

Police spokeswoman Const. Dianne Woodworth says the announcement's spelling of her name is based on Correctional Service Canada documents.

A spokeswoman for the federal prison service says the spelling is based on a court document from the Nova Scotia Supreme Court that committed Shepard to serve her time at the Nova Institution in Truro.

However, the executive director of the Nova Scotia Judiciary says that when Shepard's trial was held in 2013, the court used the spelling without the second "h."

"I think it was just a clerical error," Margaret MacInnis said in a telephone interview, when asked about the additional "h" in the warrant of committal document sent to the federal prison.

"At the earliest stage of the

+ SPELL CHECK

Marisa Piccini, a spokeswoman for the agency, said the prison relies on Nova Scotia Supreme Court documents for spelling, but she didn't respond to an emailed request for comment after the judiciary indicated an error had occurred.

proceeding, the court confirmed the identification of the accused in the case.... In this case, that name is 'Shepard,'" she wrote in an email.

The Canadian Press contacted a family member in Pictou, who also confirmed the spelling of Shepard, the name of her former husband in Prince Edward Island.

In a follow-up email, Woodworth said if Correctional Service Canada notifies police of an error, "we would be pleased to amend this."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CRIME

Police search for trailer

Police in Middle Sackville are looking for a trailer that was stolen earlier this month.

A release from RCMP says the trailer was stolen from a business on Sackville Drive on March 14 between 9 a.m. and noon.

The trailer is described as a 28-foot, double axle, white North Trail.

Anyone with information is asked to call RCMP or Crime Stoppers.

METRO



A photo of the stolen trailer. CONTRIBUTED

MV FARLEY MOWAT

Ignominious end for famous ship

In the seven years since the MV Farley Mowat was seized at gunpoint by the RCMP, the once notorious flagship of the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society has become a festering eyesore on Canada's east coast.

The flat-black ship was part of a small, militant fleet commanded by Canadian environmental crusader Paul Watson, who at the time was described as a "terrorist" by former Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams.

In Shelburne, N.S., the ship's latest port of call under the ownership of scrap dealer Tracy Dodds, the rusting, battered hulk is now the subject of a

court battle that appears to be coming to a head.

Dylan Heide, the town's chief administrative officer, said contractors appear to be dismantling the ship after months of legal wrangling.

"We are seeing compliance so far," he said in an interview Tuesday.

"The owner was there last week and he's been back today. He's preparing the boat to be removed."

Dodds could not be reached for comment.

The Federal Court of Canada decided last week that unless Dodds removes the ship from its berth in Shelburne by April



The MV Farley Mowat has been in Shelburne, N.S. since 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

8, he faces a \$5,000 fine and a maximum 20-day jail sentence at an April 13 hearing.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sannaa Youssef smiles to her children, Sara Aly, 18, and Khaled Aly, 20, after obtaining their Canadian citizenship during a ceremony Tuesday at VIA Rail Halifax. BRENLIE BROTHERS/FOR METRO

City welcomes 39 new citizens

IMMIGRATION

Judge wishes prosperity for family full of medical talent

Brenlee Brothers
For Metro | Halifax

Sannaa Youssef and her two youngest children moved to Halifax nine years ago — and they have big plans.

"I'm hoping to become a dentist," 18-year-old daughter Sara said Tuesday.

The three were among 39 people sworn in as Canadian citizens during a ceremony Tuesday at the VIA Rail Station in downtown Halifax.

Originally from Egypt, Youssef

moved to Dubai, where she was a family physician.

Since coming to Canada, in order for her to continue her practice, she would have had to go through many exams to attain her Canadian licence, she said.

"I chose another alternative career."

Youssef now works for the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia and has a business called Home Health Care for Seniors.

"It's a very nice experience when I see what Canada is doing for Syrian refugees," Youssef said.

The family came to Canada for its education.

"Opportunities are endless here, as opposed to other countries," Sara said.

Khaled, 20, like his younger sister, studies microbiology at Dalhousie University. He is hoping to get into medical

“Opportunities are endless here, as opposed to other countries.”

Sara Aly

school.

Judge Ann Janega swore in 39 citizens from 18 different countries around the world.

"I would like to wish each and every one of you a peaceful and prosperous life in Canada," she said Tuesday. "I hope the days you spend here will be the happiest and healthiest days of your lives."

After the ceremony, Youssef went back to work — and her kids, to class.

"We will celebrate later in the evening," Youssef said.

ON THE ROADS

Police urge vigilance over spree of car break-ins

Halifax police are reminding residents to lock their cars after several break-ins over the weekend.

Officers responded to a slew of calls Monday in the area of Allenby Drive and Piccadilly Close in Stillwater Lake, as well as Riverside and Pinehill Drives in Lower Sackville.

Most of the recent thefts from vehicles appear to have happened Saturday night, with the culprits stealing everything from "small electronic devices" and wallets to cash and insurance papers,

police said.

"Citizens should lock their vehicles when left unattended and ensure there are no valuables left in their automobiles," Nova Scotia RCMP Cpl. Jennifer Clarke said Tuesday. "This is a preventable crime." KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

Man charged with driving 62 km/h over speed limit

A 36-year-old Cole Harbour man has been charged with speeding for travelling 62 kilometres over the speed limit Monday morning.

Halifax Regional Police caught the driver on radar

travelling at 162 km/h in a 100-km/h zone shortly after 9 a.m. on Highway 118 near Dartmouth Crossing.

The speeding charge is "automatically laid" when a driver is travelling more than 50 kilometres per hour over the posted speed limit, police said Tuesday. The charge comes with a fine of \$2,422 and six demerit points upon conviction.

The driver is also suspended from being behind the wheel for a week and received a ticket for driving a vehicle without registration.

KRISTEN LIPSCOMBE/METRO

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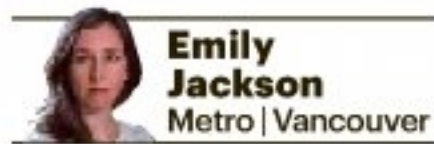
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BURNABY, B.C.

Tenant shocked to see home on Airbnb



Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

When Theresa Mansell and her two roommates got an email from their landlord in mid-February stating they had to vacate their Burnaby, B.C. home so his family could move in, they were disappointed and made plans to leave at the end of March.

But they were suspicious about the reason for their eviction since a few weeks earlier, a photographer showed up to take photographs of the house for Airbnb, Mansell told Metro. At the time, the landlord assured them he was only listing the basement suite, not the upper level of the house they rented for \$2,100 on a month-to-month lease.

"We ended up looking online and finding the ad for our actual place," said Mansell, a 24-year-old Emily Carr University student who is stressed about moving during final exams. "We were shocked and pretty angry about it."

Mansell's experience comes as Metro Vancouver municipalities grapple with rental vacancy rates near zero, leading politicians to question whether short-term rentals on websites such as Airbnb are taking rental



Theresa Mansell CONTRIBUTED

units off the housing market.

As of Tuesday morning, the listing for Mansell's house was available the day after the students move out (April 3). It was unavailable from mid-May to mid-June, but was otherwise listed for as low as \$162 per night in April and up to \$698 per night over the Canada Day long weekend.

"No wonder he wants to put it on Airbnb for the summer," Mansell said.

But the listings for the summer disappeared on Tuesday afternoon after Metro contacted the landlord via Airbnb.

"No, actually [it] is not available after end of April," the landlord wrote in messages on Airbnb (his full name isn't listed).

He said was only renting the house on Airbnb for the month because the notice was for April 30, but the students wanted to leave at the end of March.

IN BRIEF

McKenna mum on details

Canada's environment minister Catherine McKenna wouldn't say how her government plans to meet its climate change commitments and also green-light new pipeline projects. She told reporters that Canada needs to decarbonize its economy but stressed it won't happen overnight. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fracking is behind quakes

New research suggests that hydraulic fracking of oil and gas wells is behind earthquakes caused by humans in Western Canada. Fracking involves pumping high-pressure fluids underground to create cracks in rocks to release oil. The study is a step in understanding seismic events. THE CANADIAN PRESS



A small plane crashed in a field in Havre-aux-Maison on Quebec's Isle-de-la-Madeleine on Tuesday, March 29. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Seven killed in plane crash

Ex-cabinet minister and family among the victims

Former federal cabinet minister Jean Lapierre was among seven people killed in a plane that crashed as it was trying to land in Quebec's Magdalen Islands.

The TVA network, Lapierre's employer, confirmed that the former Liberal transport minister who went on to prominence as a political analyst on television and radio, was on the plane.

A local Magdalen Islands

radio station, CFIM, reported that Lapierre's wife, his sister, his two brothers and an aunt were also killed in the crash—information that the Star could not independently confirm.

Lapierre noted on Twitter Monday that his 83-year-old father had just died after a battle with Parkinson's disease. He was travelling back to the island in the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the funeral.

The Surete du Quebec confirmed Tuesday afternoon that all those on board the turbo-prop airplane died. Benoit Leblanc, a supervisor with Ambulance Leblanc, said in an interview with radio station FM93 that six of the passengers were dead by the time that paramedics arrived at the

scene of the accident.

A seventh person survived long enough to be transported to hospital but died from their injuries, Leblanc said.

The airplane, a Mitsubishi MU-2B-60 Turbo-prop, crashed just north of the island's airport, the Transportation Safety Board said in a news release. The agency, which investigates all air, marine and rail accidents, has dispatched a team of investigators to the crash site.

TSB spokesperson Chris Krepski said that the team of investigators would have departed Tuesday for the crash site, but weather conditions were so bad that they were prevented from travelling until Wednesday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JEAN LAPIERRE

Tributes pour in

Tributes poured in Tuesday for ex-federal cabinet minister Jean Lapierre following his death in a plane crash in eastern Quebec.

Many well-known Quebec journalists posted messages on social media during the day, begging Lapierre to say something to deny rumours he was on board the plane.

"He was above all a communicator," said Montreal Mayor Denis Coderre. "He could say a lot in a few words."

"An utter shock to learn of the death of Jean Lapierre and many family members," tweeted NDP Leader Tom Mulcair. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jean Lapierre

MONTREAL

Suspicious video prompts security operation

It is "too soon" to say whether a police raid Tuesday at a Montreal home was prompted by a threat to national security, the RCMP says.

Cpl. Francois Gagnon, a spokesperson with Mounties, confirmed that the force is working "in collaboration" with the Montreal Police, who responded Tuesday morning to the threat of an explosive device in the Montreal neighbourhood of Pierrefonds-Roxboro.

But he said that it is the local police force which is leading the investigation into a suspected

bomb threat.

The Journal de Montréal reported that the emergency response Tuesday was prompted by a video posted online that appeared to show an explosive device. La Presse reported that the video was flagged to police in Quebec City, who then alerted their colleagues in Montreal after tracing the IP address of the computer that posted the video.

Officers evacuated some 200 people from their homes in the vicinity of the target residence and also temporarily shut down

a commuter train that stops in the neighbourhood.

At the home, local police found and detained two people, "the suspect and the mother," but said they found no evidence of an explosive device.

Residents were allowed to return home at about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday.

The Mayor of Pierrefonds-Roxboro, Dimitrios Jim Beis, said he was concerned by suggestions of a risk to public safety, but confident in the police's ability to handle the probe.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

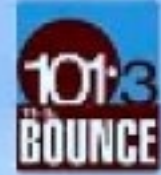


Police survey the scene outside a home in the Montreal on March 29, 2016, in reaction to threats made on social media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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6 SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

- 6 Fifth Harmony ft. Ty Dolla Sign: Work From Home
- 5 Rihanna ft. Drake: Work
- 4 Hozier: Lose Control
- 3 Meghan Trainor: No
- 2 G-Eazy ft. BoBie Roshia: Me, Myself and I
- 1 Lukas Graham: 7 Years



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TERROR

No more 'normal' in Brussels

Belgium's justice minister pleaded Tuesday for critics of Belgium's intelligence failures to focus on the hunt for those behind last week's Brussels attacks and November's massacre in Paris.

Investigators say they are still looking for at least one suspect in the attacks seven days ago, when suicide bombers killed 32 people at Brussels' airport and in a subway station near the European Union headquarters. Three suicide bombers also blew themselves up.

The Health Ministry and victims identification officials said 90 people remain in hospital, a third of them suffering from severe burns. In a joint press conference they said the 32 dead include 17 Belgians and 15 foreigners, while 44 of the wounded are foreigners from 20 nations.

Belgium has faced rising international criticism over its evident inability to identify and monitor Daesh activists living in the capital who have been deemed responsible both for the March 22 bombings in Brussels and the Nov. 13 attacks on Paris nightspots that left 130 dead.

Brussels Mayor Yvan Mayeur, who faces criticism for his own actions before and after the suicide bombings, said there is "no such thing as 'normal' anymore." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Policemen and soldiers are seen at Brussels airport entrance. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Protesters flood Islamabad amid security crackdown

Hundreds of Islamic extremists resumed protests in Pakistan's capital Tuesday over the execution of a man who killed a secular governor, in a show of defiance amid a government crackdown following a suicide attack two days earlier.

The rally brought more than 10,000 protesters into the streets of Islamabad. On Tuesday, police said some 700 remained, bringing parts of the capital to a standstill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hijacking of EgyptAir flight ended peacefully

SECURITY

'Unstable' man wearing fake explosives

An Egyptian wearing a fake explosives belt who hijacked a domestic EgyptAir flight and forced it to land in Cyprus on Tuesday surrendered and was taken into custody after releasing all passengers and crew unharmed following an hours-long standoff.

Officials said early on that the hijacking was not an act of terrorism, and later that the man appeared to be psychologically

unstable. However, the incident was likely to renew concerns about Egyptian airport security months after a Russian passenger plane was downed over the Sinai Peninsula in a bombing claimed by Daesh.

"From the start, it was clear that this wasn't an act of terrorism, and despite the fact that the individual appeared to be dangerous in terms of his behaviour, we understood that this was a psychologically unstable person," Cyprus' Foreign Minister Ioannis Kasoulides told reporters.

He said the man initially asked to speak with his Cypriot



A passenger leaves a hijacked EgyptAir aircraft after landing at Larnaca Airport in Cyprus on March 29, 2016. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ex-wife, who police brought to the airport.

"After that, he started asking for European Union representa-

tives to assure him about matters that had no logical basis," Kasoulides said.

At one point the hijacker de-

manded the release of women held in Egyptian prisons, but he then dropped the demand and made others. "His demands made no sense or were too incoherent to be taken seriously," the minister said, adding that the contents of a letter the hijacker wanted to give to his ex-wife "were also incoherent."

Egypt's Interior Ministry identified the hijacker as 58-year-old Seif Eddin Mustafa. It said he has a long criminal record, with charges including forgery, theft and drug possession. He had also served time in prison, it said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIGRANTS TENSIONS HIGH AT GREEK BORDER AS PROTESTS CONTINUE

Migrant children look from inside a rail car at a train station near a makeshift refugee camp at the northern Greek border point of Idomeni, Greece on March 29, 2016. More than 15,000 people — nearly a third of the total stranded in Greece — are refusing to move to government-built shelters around the country, and remain at the border with Macedonia and at the port of Piraeus, near Athens.

Meanwhile, police have clashed with hundreds of migrants and refugees.

The protesters have blocked freight rail tracks for the past eight days, demanding that the border reopen. Macedonia says the border will remain closed to all migrants at least until the end of the year.

DARKO VOJINOVIC/
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S.

Capitol returns to normal day after intruder shot

The U.S. Capitol complex reopened amid visibly higher security Tuesday, a day after police say officers shot and wounded a man who pulled a weapon at a security checkpoint as he entered the underground Capitol Visitor Center.

Larry R. Dawson of Tennessee, whom Capitol Police identified the man as the suspect, remained hospitalized and will not make a court appearance on Tuesday, said spokesman Bill Miller of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.

The 66-year-old was charged with assault with a deadly

weapon and assault on a police officer while armed. Dawson underwent surgery at a local hospital and as of late Monday was in stable but critical condition, police said.

Monday's incident, in which a bystander was slightly wounded, occurred at the tourists' entry point to a building that had heightened security even before the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and has had periodic scares ever since.

With last week's suicide attacks in Brussels, Belgium, that killed 35 people fresh on people's minds, Capitol Police

Chief Matthew R. Verderosa held a brief news conference at which he said terrorism seemed unlikely.

"We do believe this is an act of a single person who has frequented the Capitol grounds before and there is no reason to believe that this is anything more than a criminal act," Verderosa, who became chief this month after about three decades on the force, told reporters.

There appeared to be more police officers than usual at some posts outside the buildings as the Capitol and its sur-



An armed U.S. Capitol police stands guard after a shooting in the Visitor Center on Monday in Washington, DC. GETTY IMAGES

rounding buildings resumed business Tuesday.

Even so, the reopening was marred as police investigated a pair of suspicious packages at the Capitol's East Front and Library of Congress Jefferson Building. By mid-morning, both packages had been declared harmless and road closures just outside those buildings were lifted.

Verderosa said he did not know how many officers had fired at the suspect in Monday's incident. He said no officers were injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tech industry struggles to find skilled workers

EMPLOYMENT

Wanted: Web developers and coders

Three years ago, Erik Dohnberg was working at the Genius Bar at an Apple store in London, Ont.

He'd been there for 10 months after graduating with an information and media studies degree from Western University when he decided he wanted more.

With the intention of starting up his own business, Dohnberg signed up for a nine-week boot camp at Bitmaker Labs, a web developer training school in Toronto.

Within two weeks of completing the boot camp, Dohnberg had 16 job interviews and received two job offers. One of them was from Bitmaker Labs.

Tech skills programs like the ones at Bitmaker Labs have been sprouting up over the past few years in response to a tech talent shortage in Canada. It's a



A tutor helps a student at Lighthouse Labs in Toronto.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

problem that has been bubbling to the surface, as more startups open up shop and try to recruit from an already-small pool of Canadian coders and developers.

A report released earlier this month by the Information and Communications Technology Council estimates that 218,000 tech jobs will be created in Canada by 2020. It warns that it could cost the economy billions of dollars in lost productivity,

tax revenues and GDP if Canada doesn't address the tech skills gap.

At Bitmaker, courses range from weekend boot camps to an intensive nine-week course for \$9,000. The school believes anyone can learn how to code and its students include everyone from college and university dropouts to ex-engineers, investment bankers and skilled labourers. Bitmaker has also

enrolled computer engineer and science graduates looking to update their skills.

Dohnberg said such boot camps are still not producing workers fast enough to meet the demands of the ever-evolving tech industry, making it vital for colleges and universities to tailor their programs for jobs in the sector.

Vancouver-based Lighthouse Labs, which also runs web developer boot camps, sees its role as completely separate from that of a post-secondary institution.

"We consider ourselves complementary to university. We're not trying to undercut it or disrupt it," said Jeremy Shaki, Lighthouse chief executive and self-proclaimed "chief talking officer."

The eight-week boot camp at Lighthouse accepts one out of three applicants, with the deciding factor being motivation, a coding background and a willingness to do hard work.

"We don't take people who are in it for the gold rush," said Shaki. THE CANADIAN PRESS

HIRING

Talent shortage means university not required

Before Hired launched in Toronto last November, nearly 27,000 people and more than 280 companies applied for the online service that matches job seekers with gigs in the tech sector.

About five per cent of applicants are approved to use Hired's services, and it usually charges firms 15 per cent of a new employee's first-year salary for each successful hire.

To Matt Mickiewicz, the company's co-founder and chief product officer, the high interest signals a problem — the jobs are there, but there are too few qualified candidates to fill them.

Canada's tech companies are in stiff competition for retain-

ing top prospects. Organizations are struggling to find qualified applicants.

One of the top challenges for many is attracting and recruiting employees, according to an ICTC survey where more than 53 per cent of respondents identified it as a problem.

It's an issue Shopify, an Ottawa-based company, has encountered.

"In looking for folks who are going to raise the bar, absolutely, there are challenges," said Anna Lambert, Shopify's director of talent acquisition.

Tech companies must have an expansive recruitment strategy to bring in the best employees, she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Shopify's Harry Brundage and Anna Lambert. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JOBS

Liberal budget fails to help jobless youth

A notable Liberal election pledge designed to encourage employers to hire young people failed to make the cut in last week's federal budget.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau vowed during last year's campaign to offer a 12-month holiday on employment insurance premiums to employers who give permanent jobs to people aged 18-24.

The promise, announced in September by Trudeau himself, was supposed to come into force this year and extend through 2017 and 2018, but it didn't receive a mention in the budget.

During the campaign, Trudeau noted that the Chrétien Liberals did something similar in the late 1990s "to tremen-

dously positive effect."

Last month, the country's unemployment rate for youth aged 15 to 24 was 13.3 per cent, compared to 7.3 per cent for people 15 and over.

The pledge would have also provided financial relief for potential bosses by waiving their EI contributions.

The Liberals estimated the total savings for employers would have been \$80 million this year, \$80 million in 2017 and \$60 million in 2018.

Government officials did not immediately respond to questions Tuesday as to why the policy was absent from the budget or whether it will be introduced in the future.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau discusses the federal budget in Toronto on March 24. PETER POWER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

CRTC invites comment in early stages of 911 emergency phone service upgrade

The Canadian public is being invited to comment on changes for the next generation of 911 phone service for emergencies.

Features under consideration include text messages, photos and videos that can be sent to 911 operators.

The CRTC says it will be considering technical requirements and who will pay for the system as well as confidentiality issues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



THE QUESTION

My date had a poppy seed in her teeth during breakfast, but I didn't say anything in case I embarrassed her. Should I have said something?

Dear Ellen,

I was on a date recently, with a woman I met online. Actually it was the morning after, and it was breakfast. She had a poppy seed from a bagel stuck in her teeth, which was really noticeable, but I didn't say anything in case I embarrassed her. Then I thought, if she notices it in the mirror later, she'll be embarrassed anyway. Should I have said something?

R.D., Edmonton

Dear R.D.,

Your letter, like so many letters I get, raises all kinds of questions that may or may not have to do with etiquette — but which are fascinating nonetheless.

For example, you say you were on a "date," but I think we may fairly assume you had a night of sex that led to a "morning after." To some people, that might qualify as a relationship already. Others might call it a one-night stand. Your use of the rather quaint word "date" puts the encounter somewhere between the two.

You also fail to indicate whether it was a first date, or the 20th time you've been out with this person, and — if closer to the latter — at what point sexual congress began.

Finally, you specify that you "met online." It makes me wonder whether you approach online dates differently from IRL setups. Should

You should always say something when your companion has food in their teeth. ... The trick is to do it quickly and jovially.

one? Hmm, if the dates are being arranged via Ashley Madison or a BDSM site, then perhaps one should.

What exactly is your relationship with this person? It's all very confusing.

Not the etiquette part. That's easy. The answer is yes, you should always say something when your companion has food in their teeth, or something hanging out of their nose, or their shirt buttons are gaping open to expose a brassiere, or they have a wire coat hanger dangling off the belt of their jacket, which I once had to point out to a roommate as she raced off to a job interview. I noticed the hanger as she ran out the door, and called out to her: "Stop! Come back!" This made her

miss her bus, be late for the interview, and not get the job, which she still blames me for. But I maintain that if she showed up with the hanger on her belt, she wouldn't have got the job anyway.

Are there any exceptions to this rule? Yes, if you meet the Queen of England and she has food in her teeth, you may safely assume she has enough advisors around her to deal with the situation, and save yourself the trouble and discomfort of pointing it out. The same goes with dictators, muggers or your boss during a performance review. Whilst at the mercy of someone who has the power to end your life or career, it is acceptable to put your own social com-

fort before theirs.

In your encounter with your date, however, mentioning the poppy seed as soon as you noticed it would have been the considerate thing to do. To minimize embarrassment for either of you, the trick is to do it quickly and jovially (as if it's a funny, cute thing), and not in a low, embarrassed murmur (as if it's a horrifying, shameful thing).

And then, R.D., get on with your date, or relationship, or online hookup, or whatever it is you are doing with this woman, just so long as you continue to do so with good manners.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



metroview

Rob Ford's dismal LGBT record needs to be remembered



Rob Salerno
For Metro

It's not surprising that in the wake of Rob Ford's death, commentators from all corners are rushing to forgive or explain away the former mayor's many personal failings.

But while pundits have occasionally contorted themselves into logical pretzels to explain away Ford's casual racism and misogyny — "He was just drunk!" "He always fights for the little guy!" — none has ever been able to explain away his deliberate and calculated anti-LGBT statements and actions.

Ford never hid anti-LGBT animus. From his earliest days on council, when he opposed funding small grants to diversity and AIDS-prevention campaigns, he made it explicit that his opposition stemmed from disgust with LGBT people, not from a desire to protect the public purse.

"I have no problem giving money out to physically or mentally handicapped children or seniors, but spending \$5,000 on this video is disgusting," Ford said of an educational video about homosexuality in the South Asian community in 2001.

"If you're not doing needles and you're not gay, you won't get AIDS, probably," is another Ford classic that reveals not only shocking ignorance about AIDS, but a cavalier attitude toward the lives of gays and (ironically) drug users.

As mayor, Ford's opposi-

tion to the existence of LGBT people in the city intensified. The dispiriting annual game of will-he-or-won't-he-march-in-Pride provided his allies with a convenient set of excuses — it was about the city money given to Pride, and besides, he was spending time with his family — but through four years in office, he systematically avoided any opportunity to meet with the LGBT community in an official capacity.

When the city protocol office decided to raise the Pride flag at city hall during the 2014 Sochi Olympics to support LGBT Russians and athletes, Ford protested loudly and demanded it come down. Later that year, he made it a point to remain seated as council stood to congratulate the success of World Pride.

Beyond these symbolic gestures, Ford cast the lone vote on council against a report that recommended increased supports for homeless LGBT youth.

Ford's homophobia wasn't just a private matter, either. His "Nation" included a contingent of homophobes who ate up his provocations and responded with occasional violence toward LGBT people.

While the community stood firm and fought back, Ford's campaign to diminish the lives and dignity of LGBT people in Toronto should not be forgotten.

Rob Salerno is a gay journalist and activist who has written for Daily Xtra, NOW and Vice, among other outlets.

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Juno menu hits all the right notes

Bass is Base Juno-award winning artist Roger Mooking is the first celebrity chef to curate the food for the 2016 Juno Gala Dinner & Awards with his exclusive three-course meal for Canada's music elite. Mooking's multicultural influences are reflected in the appetizer and signature Juno week drinks shared here. **RECIPES COURTESY ROGER MOOKING**

STEP ONE

Spiced croutes

Yield: 4 servings

- Sidewalk Citizen Staple sourdough loaf
- 1/2 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp sweet paprika
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp sea salt
- 1 1/2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Preheat oven to 350F. Slice sourdough loaf widthwise into 1/2-inch thick slices. Mix all ingredients together and using a pastry brush, distribute mixture on 4 slices of sourdough. Toast bread in oven 6 minutes. Let cool on baking tray.

STEP TWO

Slow roasted Sunset Campari tomatoes

Preheat oven to 350F. Toss whole Sunset Campari tomatoes gently with olive oil, salt and pepper. Bake in oven for 16 minutes. Cool on baking tray until room temperature. Store gently until service as they are meant to be blistered but intact for service.



Chef Roger Mooking.

ALL PHOTOS BY NIKOLAI CUTHILL

STEP THREE

Roasted garlic

- 12 garlic cloves, peeled
- olive oil
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 tsp water

Preheat oven to 350F. Toss garlic cloves with olive oil, salt, pepper and water. Place garlic cloves on prepared baking sheet and cover tightly with aluminium foil. Bake for 45 minutes or until cloves are tender. Let cool on baking tray.

STEP FOUR

Nuh Gana dressing

Yield: 6-8 servings

- 1 red sweet pepper, roasted, peeled and de-seeded
- 8 cloves of roasted garlic
- 2 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp white wine vinegar

Combine all ingredients in a high speed blender and puree until smooth.

STEP FIVE

Salad mix

Yield: 2 servings

- 2 cups Loosely Packed Baby Kale
- 2 cups Loosely Packed Baby Arugula
- 1/2 cup Torn Fresh Basil Leaves
- 2 cups Torn Boston Bib Lettuce

Gently toss ingredients together to combine.

WHISKEY COCKTAIL

Cool With That – Brett Kissel

- 2 oz J.P. Wiser's
- 1/2 oz McGuinness simple syrup or homemade
- 3/4 oz fresh lemon
- 1/4 oz grenadine
- Garnish: lemon zest

Method: Combine the ingredients in a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake hard until well blended and chilled for about 5 to 6 seconds. Fine strain over ice in glass. Squeeze a lemon zest across the drink to release the oils, give it a twist and place it in the drink.



THE JUNO GALA DINNER MENU

Tomato Surprise

*Baby Greens & Sunset Campari Bomb — Boston, Basil, Kale, Arugula, Sidewalk Citizen Spiced Croutes, Roasted Garlic Nuh Gana Dressing, Extra Virgin Olive Oil

Alberta Love

Blackened Canadian Rangeland Bison Tenderloin & Chimichurri — Parmesan Crushed Fingerlings, Grilled Lemon & Chili Oil Baby Bok Choy
*Herbed Mushroom Toast — Sidewalk Citizen Sourdough, Parmesan Crushed Fingerlings, Grilled Lemon & Chili Oil Baby Bok Choy

Cracked Caramel & Brownies

*Cup O' Coffee & Brownies — Chocolate Brownie Chunks, Phil & Sebastian Espresso Mousse, Sautéed Banana, Cracked Caramel

* indicates vegetarian option

VODKA COCKTAIL

Downtown – The Sheepdogs

- 1 oz Polar Ice
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 2 oz fresh grapefruit
- Garnish: wedge of grapefruit

Method: Combine all ingredients in a cocktail shaker, add ice and shake until well-blended for about 5 to 6 seconds and fine strain into ice filled rocks glass and garnish with wedge of grapefruit.



Feeling lonely? Rent a friend

WEBSITE

Meet the people who get paid to hang out as pals

Ryan Porter
Torstar News Service



In '80s teen movies, when someone pays for friendship, they're usually about to learn a valuable lesson about how priceless true friendship really is. Priceless, as in free, as in the same price of a Can't Buy Me Love VHS.

So I had steeled myself for a karmic comeuppance when I first met Cassandra Lemon, a 22-year-old social-work student, kitchen staff member at iQ Food Co. and professional friend-for-hire.

This was in spite of encouraging early evidence. Lemon had cheerfully embraced the idea of attending a showcase of breaking bands at the Painted Lady, a bar on Ossington Ave., earlier this month when I contacted her through RentAFriend.com. The



Cassandra Lemon, 22, was connected with Toronto Star reporter Ryan Porter through RentAFriend.com. He paid her \$10 per hour to go out to The Painted Lady bar in Toronto.

J.P. MOCZULSKI/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

site arranges platonic hangouts at an hourly rate, plus a \$24.95 U.S. monthly membership fee.

Though she usually asks for

\$20 to \$25 an hour, Lemon happily agreed to accept \$10 an hour in exchange for a free night out. Arriving 10 minutes early, dressed

in a simple black T-shirt, smoky-eye makeup beneath her glasses and a necklace strung with the symbol from video game Assassin's Creed, Lemon nodded along as I made conversation, fixing me with a sympathetic gaze.

This was the 15th or 16th time she had met someone through Rent-A-Friend since joining four years ago, and the results had been drastically mixed. She describes one man she met for a drink as "too angry" — she politely excused herself early in the evening.

Another, in town for a meeting, invited her to the theatrical horsemanship showcase Cavalia. He got lost along the way and, frustrated that her phone was too old to receive photos of the surrounding landmarks, took her straight to the Apple Store and bought her an iPhone. "I was really uncomfortable," she says.

Another guy asked her to accompany him to a wedding. "He didn't want any more, 'Why aren't you seeing anybody?'" she says. At the last minute, he cancelled.

Before meeting anyone, she sets ground rules to ensure it's understood just what kind of friend-for-hire she is.

"I'm not OK with hand holding," she says. "I'm OK with sitting next to you. We'll see, maybe a hug at the end. . . . For me, I'm



If I have nothing to do and I'm bored at home, why not, right? It gets me out of the house.

Rina Czerniawska,
friend-for-hire

not even going to get in your car."

Despite RentAFriend.com's goal of connecting people, finding Lemon wasn't easy; of the 14 professionally social people I contacted, only half responded and most shirked press coverage of their side gig.

The people we reached include Parker, a 25-year-old filmmaker who joined the site last year as research for a screenplay, though he was never "rented." On the other end of the spectrum: Natasha, whose fee was "100/hr, with a 300 minimum."

I chatted with Rina Czerniawska, a 42-year-old waitress

who has been on the site for six weeks. She'd gone out once, to see a horror movie with a guy whose friends don't follow the genre. "You get to meet people," she says, a shrug in her voice. "If I have nothing to do and I'm bored at home, why not, right? It gets me out of the house."

While Czerniawska is up for new experiences, she turned down a request from a woman who wanted her to meet at Ossington Station every morning at 8:15 a.m. to make sure she made it to work. It's the only story I heard about a woman trying to rent a friend. Lemon says all of her messages have been from men.

We pause to listen to Color Film, an indie-rock guitarist from Hamilton. I worry that Lemon can't see. I worry that the noise is overpowering the music for her the way it is for me. I worry about if she is having fun. Though Lemon is nothing but upbeat about the experience, if there's any moral to the Rent-A-Friend story, I decide, it's this: If I'm going to make anyone suffer through an unknown rock band, I would rather it be with someone who I'm already comfortable not having fun with.

FASHION

I'm a grown woman, and I went nuts over a handbag

Irene Kuan
Metro | Canada



I'm a level-headed, mature woman, but for a few minutes on March 29, I turned into a foaming-at-the-mouth maniac — for a handbag.

Touted as the bag to have by the international fashion gods, the black bucket bag with the red "flamma" interior by the little-known, yet notoriously hard-to-get brand Mansur Gavriel, has been on my must-have list for more than a year. I've never managed to snag one, though, and I seethe with jealousy whenever I see a woman carrying one.

Mansur Gavriel, an American fashion house founded by designing duo Rachel Mansur and Floriana Gavriel, came to the attention of the media in 2013, and has continued to make a splash on the fashion scene with each new collection, including at the latest New York fashion week.

Called the first post-recession "it" bag by Business of Fashion in early 2015, Mansur Gavriel's bucket bag has reached such cult status that the company headed to court earlier this month to



Metro's Irene Kuan scored not one, but two coveted Mansur Gavriel bags. HANDOUT

fight back against copycats.

I needed this bag. I didn't care about the cost, or my composure. I was obsessed.

PayPal account logged in and credit cards in hand. I had my boyfriend and a friend on standby in case anything went wrong (if you've tried buying a Mansur Gavriel online, you'll know what I'm talking about). Everything went wrong.

My black bucket bag was in the shopping cart, but my credit card was declined over and over again. Seconds ticked by as the "sold out" slash marks began appearing over each sought-after bag.

My heart began to sink, but

then my friend texted. She got one! Then my boyfriend — he got one too! So now I have not just one but TWO Mansur Gavriel bags. Price tag for both: \$1,250 U.S. Had I gone bananas?

Maybe I fell for the genius way the fashion brand marketed their product, playing up the small-batch, high-quality production of the Italian-made bags, teasing us for weeks with the tiny, online sales window.

But then I looked at Mansur Gavriel's Facebook page, as it filled up with angry comments from throngs of disappointed shoppers. See, it is THAT hard to get, I thought. And I got not one, but TWO. Score.

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Imperfect — but maybe perfect for you



REVIEW

Rogue great for cruising, but acceleration is sluggish

Jil McIntosh
For Metro Canada



When you're shopping, there is no perfect vehicle. Instead, it comes down to measuring the pros and cons — what you love, what you don't, and what you can live with — to come up with the right one.

That's what I did with the Nissan Rogue. There are some things it could certainly do better, but overall, I could live with this little trucklet.

It was completely redesigned back in 2014, a makeover that solved its interior-space inadequacies, especially the cramped rear seat.

It's now quite roomy inside despite its compact exterior dimensions.

You can even get a third row of seats, although I've never tried squeezing into one and don't imagine it would be pleasant.

My two-row version included a configurable cargo tray that can be lifted to hide valuables, dropped to accommodate taller items, or flipped up to keep gro-

cery bags from sliding around. The Rogue uses a 2.5-litre four-cylinder, mated strictly to an automatic continuously-variable transmission (CVT).

Its performance is fine once you're at cruising speed, but acceleration to get there is noisy and sluggish.

The ride is quiet and smooth, but I'd like more steering feel. All-wheel drive, optional on the two lower trim levels and standard on the top-line SL, primarily runs the front wheels but sends power to the rear ones when needed.

It can also be locked 50/50 at low speeds to get out of snow or mud.

There's a wide step over the sill. Once you're inside, the seats are very comfortable. And

I love this: the seatbelt adjuster slides down farther than on anything else I've ever driven, so it doesn't choke shorter drivers.

The Rogue's starting price of \$24,948 puts it mid-range with most competi-

tors. My tester was the new SV Special trim, a version of the mid-range SV but \$1,000 less since it lacks the SV's panoramic sunroof — a nice alternative if, like me, you want creature comforts but don't care for a glass top.

It's all part of choosing the vehicle that isn't perfect, but is ideal for you.

THE CHECKLIST | 2016 NISSAN ROGUE

THE BASICS

Type. Four-door, five-passenger compact SUV
Engines (hp/torque). 2.5-litre four-cylinder (170/175)
Transmissions. Continuously variable (CVT)
Price. \$24,948 - \$35,548; as-tested \$29,548 (plus destination)
COOL FEATURES
• Configurable cargo compartment
• Sliding and reclining second-row seats
• Satellite radio
• Available blind spot warning and emergency braking
• Easy-Fill tire pressure system
• Hill start assist
• Available power liftgate



ROGUE PHOTOS JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO; ALL OTHERS HANDOUT

POINTS

- The rear-view camera has a limited view and is mainly for judging curbs when parking; the bird's-eye camera on higher trims is far superior.
- The Rogue has been in the top-ten list of best-selling SUVs and light trucks in Canada for 19 consecutive months.

MARKET POSITION

Nissan offers the Rogue and Juke in the compact SUV/ CUV segment. The Juke's more fun to drive, but it's smaller and its styling isn't to all tastes, leaving the Rogue to appeal to a more mainstream audience.

THE COMPETITION



Ford Escape
Base price: \$24,199



Toyota RAV4
Base price: \$25,240



Honda CR-V
Base price: \$26,190

3 STANDOUT CARS THAT TURNED HEADS IN NEW YORK

Some stunning new vehicles have been presented at this year's New York International Auto Show, which runs until April 3. Here are three to watch. **AFP**

1 Chevrolet Camaro ZL1

General Motors unveiled the Chevrolet Camaro ZL1, which comes with a 640hp V8 engine and a choice of six-speed manual or 10-speed automatic gearboxes. Surprisingly, the American carmaker hasn't yet announced performances for this car, which is due to land before the end of 2016. A convertible version, also presented at the New York event, should be available in early 2017.



2 Toyota Prius Prime

A rechargeable version of the Toyota Prius was presented in a worldwide premiere at the New York show. This doubles battery life in fully electric mode (over 50 km), for average fuel consumption of just 1.4l/100km and CO2 emissions at 32g/km. It also has an original solar charging system on the roof. The rechargeable Prius is scheduled to launch towards the end of 2016.



3 Subaru Impreza

The new version of this Japanese hatchback debuts the Subaru Global Platform architecture, increasing rigidity throughout the body and chassis by 70 per cent, according to the manufacturer. The first models are expected to land in North America by the end of the year.



Presidents' trophy not Caps' main Cup concern

LEAGUE'S BEST

Historic regular season merely 'a nice thing to happen'

Players can't drink out of the Presidents' Trophy, given to the top regular-season team in the NHL. Not that the Washington Capitals would want to, anyway.

The Capitals clinched the Presidents' Trophy and home-ice advantage throughout the Stanley Cup playoffs with a victory Monday night against the Columbus Blue Jackets. Yet after so many early playoff exits, including a first-round loss in 2010 after finishing with the most points in the league, there are mixed emotions about the achievement.

"Honestly, no one really cares about the Presidents' Trophy," defenceman Karl Alzner said. "It's more of a nice thing to happen. We're happy about it, but that wasn't the goal at the beginning of the year."

Finishing with the most points in the league — and wrapping that up with six games remaining — is nothing to sneeze at. Washington has skated circles around the rest of the NHL and is the favourite to win the Cup.

The memory of six years ago



Braden Holtby's 46 wins in 61 games this season have helped the Capitals secure top spot in the standings with seven games to go. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

is sobering for the six players left from that group, including captain Alex Ovechkin and all-star centre Nicklas Backstrom. The 2009-10 Capitals were prohibitive favourites until they ran into hot goaltender Jaroslav Halak in the first round and lost in seven games to the Montreal Canadiens.

Backstrom certainly hasn't forgotten about that when considering what winning the Presidents' Trophy means to this year's team.

"It doesn't mean anything,

to be honest with you," Backstrom said. "It's good to have home-ice advantage through the playoffs, but at the same time it doesn't matter. It doesn't even mean anything because we lost the last time in the first round when we won the Presidents' Trophy."

At 29-7-2, the Capitals have the best home record in hockey, so home ice at Verizon Center is a valuable commodity. Alzner pointed to the first-round series against the New York Islanders last season and

said not having home-ice could have cost them.

It's no guarantee for success. But if Washington comes out of the Eastern Conference, it'll be able to match lines against the champion from the deep West, and that's no small advantage.

"In the playoffs, it seems like everything is so even," said T.J. Oshie, who spent the past seven seasons with the St. Louis Blues, one of the front-runners to emerge from the West. "There are so many one-goal games, or one-goal games

8/29

Only eight of 29 Presidents' Trophy winners have won the Stanley Cup, most recently the 2013 Chicago Blackhawks. Three lost in the final, seven lost in the conference final, six in the second round and six in the first round.

with an empty-netter, or overtime games, that I think you just get a little bit more (of an) advantage in a seven-game series with the second (line) change. I think that's really important, especially when you want to match on other teams' key guys."

With the start of the playoffs more than two weeks away, the Capitals are trying to shift into that mode. And while they didn't celebrate the Presidents' Trophy, there was a moment to pause and recognize the accomplishment.

"I think the guys recognize it and they do take some joy in it," coach Barry Trotz said. "There's not going to be a champagne party or anything like that. I think there's a sense of fulfilment that we said we're going to do some things, we accomplished them so far and we've still got some things to accomplish." THE CANADIAN PRESS

CONCUSSIONS

Emails show NHL concern

Unsealed NHL documents in the concussion lawsuit brought by former players reveal an internal debate by league officials over head injuries and a deeper concern about the impact of fighting than what has been publicly shared by NHL leadership.

Spokesman Frank Brown said Tuesday the league's stance has not changed from commissioner Gary Bettman's comments during all-star weekend. Bettman said then that the release of the "out of context" documents would be "a distraction at best" and "not impact the merits of the case."

The material was obtained by The Associated Press from counsel for the plaintiffs and was first reported by TSN.

More than 100 former NHL players have joined the class action against the league over its handling of concussions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



I certainly hope that the NHL is thinking both of its responsibility towards its players and to the example of so many young people who look to the NHL as a dream.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau



90s to now

**Yup.
The music's better now.**

Ken Klee a keeper: U.S. squad

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Veteran coach open to leading team at S. Korea Olympics

If it were up to captain Meghan Duggan, Ken Klee would be behind the U.S. women's hockey team bench at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

"We've got a good thing going with him right now," Duggan said. "He's been kind of exactly what we've been looking for these last couple years."

"I've obviously been a part of U.S. teams over the last 10 years. Great coaches along the way, but I feel really confident in his ability to lead us in the right direction."

Klee played defence in the NHL for 14 seasons, mostly with the Washington Capitals, before retiring in 2009. The 44-year-old from Indianapolis began coaching U.S. women's teams — both national and under-22 — in 2014.



Team USA coach Ken Klee speaks to his players during second period action against Canada at the women's world hockey championships, Monday. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

His record is 15-2-1-2, including a 3-1 win over Canada at the Sandman Centre on Monday to kick off the preliminary round of the women's world hockey championship.

The U.S. won both the world

championship and the Four Nations Cup in 2015 with Klee as their coach. He's open to the idea of leading the American women into Pyeongchang, South Korea, in two years.

"I would love to if the

opportunity is there. I've had the question a lot," Klee said. "I've just got to keep winning. You win and things take care of themselves. It increases your chances."

Klee played for the U.S. in

+ U.S. BEATS CANADA 3-1

Hilary Knight had two goals and Brianna Decker scored the winner to help the United States begin its title defence at the women's world hockey championship with a 3-1 victory over Canada on Monday night.

Knight's even-strength

goal tied it 1-1 with 10:02 to play, and Decker scored a power-play goal about 4 minutes later.

Knight added an empty-netter with 20 seconds left.

Laura Fortino scored for Canada 14 seconds into the third period.

the 2004 World Cup of Hockey and in a pair of world championships, but not in a Winter Games. He scored 55 goals, including 13 game-winners, and totalled 195 points in 934 NHL games.

Klee wanted to spend a few years after retirement guiding his hockey-playing sons before stepping into coaching.

The U.S. women haven't won gold since women's hockey made its Olympic debut in 1998. Canada has beaten them in three of four finals since then. Sweden took silver in 2006.

Former pro player Kevin Dineen coached Canada's women to gold in 2014 before returning to the NHL's coaching ranks as an assistant with the Chicago Blackhawks.

Doug Lidster, who played 16 NHL seasons, was an assistant coach of the Canadian women's team that won Olympic gold in 2010.

He's now an assistant with the Vancouver Canucks.

Go to metronews.ca for coverage of Canada's late game against Russia

FIGURE SKATING

Nam Nguyen headed to championships

When Nam Nguyen was told to report to coach Brian Orser's office at the Toronto Cricket Club a couple of weeks ago, his first thought was that he was in trouble.

"I was panicking," Nguyen said. Instead, Orser and Mike Slipchuk, Skate Canada's high performance director, had called him in to tell him he'd been added to the team for this week's world figure skating championships.

Liam Firus, a 23-year-old from North Vancouver, B.C., had withdrawn from the squad so Nguyen could compete, an unselfish move that he explained was "vital for our team."

The world championships in Boston determine how many skaters — between one and three — a country can enter in each

discipline at next year's event, which in turn determines how many can compete at the 2018 Olympics.

Nguyen, a 17-year-old from Toronto, has had a rough season as he continues to adjust to his growing body. But he's had better international results than Firus, including a fifth-place finish at last year's world championships.

"(Firus) messaged me a few days ago, wishing me luck and enjoy the experience," Nguyen said. "When I heard I was going to worlds, I messaged him later that night to say thank you, best of luck... in the rest of your training and to get ready for next season."

Nguyen, who won the world junior title in 2014, finished fourth with an uncharacteristically rocky performance at the Canadian championships in January. As the defending champion in a field that once again featured Patrick Chan — back after a season's hiatus — Nguyen was feeling the pressure.

But the bigger issue has been his growing. He's sprouted up four inches since last spring to five foot 10 after growing six inches the previous year.

"You go from a young man to a man and it's not so much the height but your shoulders get broader... just a different kind of weight," Orser said. "It's always an adjustment." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Nam Nguyen GETTY IMAGES

IN BRIEF

Switzerland's Bacsinszky moves on to semifinals

Switzerland's Timea Bacsinszky has been the comeback queen of this Miami Open, and is heading to the semifinals after another three-set marathon.

The 19th-seeded Bacsinszky rallied to top fifth-seeded Simona Halep of Romania 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals Tuesday, continuing her deepest run in four trips to Key Biscayne.

"It's something amazing," Bacsinszky said. "I'm really happy today."

A Russian player will await her in the semis, either 15th-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova or 30th-seeded Ekaterina Makarova.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBC on pace to set national advertising sales record

NBC says that it has surpassed \$1 billion in advertising sales for the upcoming Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is on pace to set a record for the most national advertising sold for any single event.

By contrast, the network announced reaching the \$1 billion sales milestone only two days prior to the opening of the 2012 Olympics in London.

The Brazilian Olympic games are set to begin Aug. 5. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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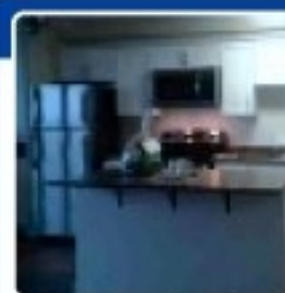
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forecast calls for "I dunno" with
a slight chance of "Huhhhh?"



RECIPE Spaghetti with Pancetta and Spinach



PHOTO: MAYA VISNIEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

You already know pasta is an easy way to tackle dinner but this dish is not only fast but it's packed with flavor. Thank you, pancetta.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

- Ingredients**
- 250 g spaghetti
 - 1/3 cup oil, divided
 - 1 clove garlic
 - 1/2 cup diced pancetta
 - 5 oz. fresh spinach
 - 1 cup fresh shaved asiago cheese

Directions
1. Bring a pot of heavily salted

water (it should taste like the ocean) to boil and add pasta; cook according to package directions.

2. Heat a large skillet over medium heat and then add a tablespoon of oil. Add garlic and cook for about 1 minute, until fragrant. Add pancetta and cook until browned. Adjust the heat to low and then stir in the spinach and allow it to wilt.

3. Once pasta is done, add to the pan with spinach along with the remaining oil and stir. Sprinkle pasta with asiago cheese. Remove pasta from heat and serve.

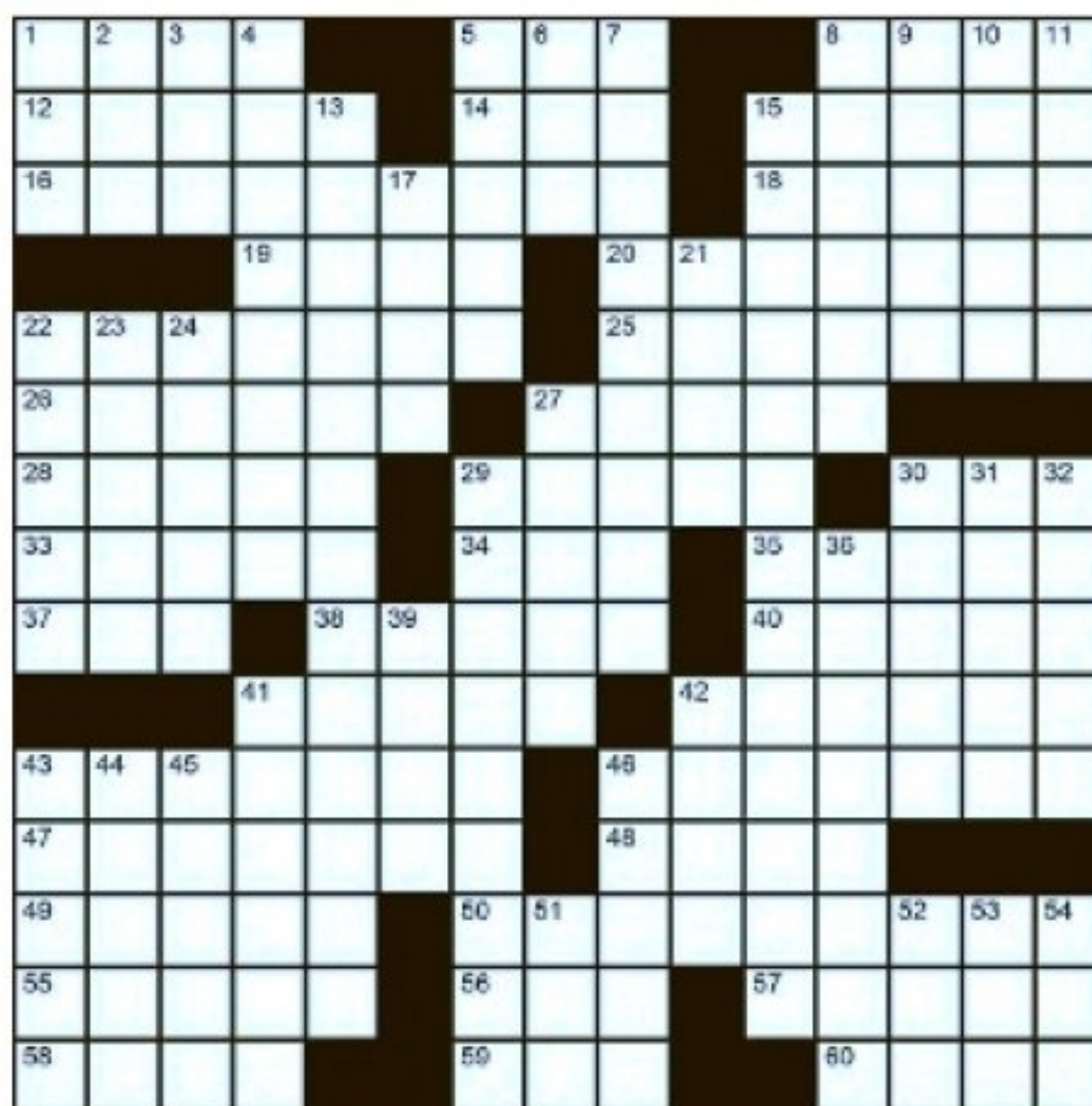
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Mr. Clay-ton of U2
- City ride
- Legally fair
- Canadian eyewear chain, _ Optical
- Cuckoo bird
- Del _ (Canned fruit brand)
- Tilted up against: 2 wds.
- Variety of flower
- Nylons nuisance
- Store employee at the counter
- Married Canadian hosts of #15-Down, _ and Dave Wilson
- Miss Havisham's ward
- Islands of Portugal
- French _ (Fast food order)
- Don Juan types
- Cloudiness of vision
- "Star Trek: Voyager" role
- English speaker, for short
- Quebec flag symbol, Fleur-de- _
- Unfresh, as bread
- Golfing prop
- Contaminate
- Western movie
- Blue Rodeo's " _ Hit Me Yet"
- "The _" (Steve Carell series)
- Scattered
- Seats for Miss



- Muffet
47. Muse of comedy in Greek myth, and her namesakes
48. Strait of Belle _
49. Comic actress Ms. Wilson
50. Divide, as with a wall

55. Have _ _ of one's own
56. Be in debt
57. Fried foods coating, perhaps
58. " _ Dinah" by Frankie Avalon
59. Writer Mr. Lawrence, et al.
60. Skim

DOWN

- Hamilton Bulldogs org.
- Actor, Daniel _ Kim
- Alias, e.g.
- Troubadour
- Loose fitting
- One, in Mexico
- Most earnest

8. Teasingly jokes
9. Johnny Mathis hit bit: "... _ the twelfth of never..."
10. Structural material
11. Earth
13. Team the Ottawa Senators

- play at the Xcel Energy Center: 2 wds.
15. Nashville-set reno/realty show, on W Network and HGTV: 3 wds.
17. Refusals in Glasgow
21. Nepal's location
22. 18- _ gold
23. Earth's sky layer
24. "I Heard I Had" by Vancouver band Dear _
27. Fire-making aid
29. Changing traffic lanes concern
30. Ms. Couric
31. Turn a person into a politician
32. Parched periods
36. Prom dress materials
39. Drifting
41. Roch Vol-sine song
42. Air freshener brand
43. Priceless violin, for short
44. Subject
45. Fervent
46. Cars have four
51. Wonderment
52. "Monsters, _" (2001)
53. River to the Volga
54. Napierville negative

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Avoid intense discussions and encounters with bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs today. They could quickly disintegrate into a nasty argument!

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Research that you do today might yield something shocking. It could be a secret from the past. It also might relate to politics or religion. Be careful how you use this information.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Discussions with a friend or a member of a group might turn into a power struggle today. Don't try to force your opinions on anyone else, and don't let anyone do this to you.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is a poor day to talk to authority figures, because you probably are obsessed with an idea. You're like a dog with a bone. This will not go over too well. Wait for another day.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Avoid controversial subjects, because you will end up arguing about politics, religion or racial issues. People are intense and obsessed today!

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Quarrels about shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt and jointly held possessions might come to a head today. However, this is a poor day for these discussions. Ya think?

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Avoid quarrels with partners and close friends today. Either you or someone else won't let go of an idea, which is the source of the problem.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You might have to fix broken equipment at work today. In doing so, avoid quarrels with co-workers who think they know better.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Parents should be easygoing with kids today, because it's a quarrelsome day. Likewise, romantic partners might experience conflict. Just let it go. Lighten up.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be tactful during family discussions today because people are obsessed about issues. Home repairs are one thing that seems to be on the table right now.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do not try to coerce others to agree with you today. (Ironically, you won't get them to agree anyway.) Just keep things light, because relations with others are intense.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
If shopping today, be careful! You might buy something regardless of whether you should do this or not. Avoid quarrels about money and possessions, as well.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

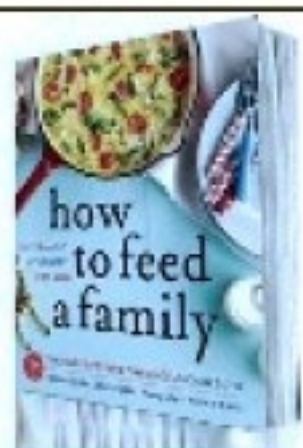
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